

REMARKS

1. Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

a. Claims 46-49

Claims 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended independent claims 46 and 48 to correct the antecedence deficiency indicated in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

b. Claims 46-50

Claims 46-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 46-50 to correct those specific terms referred to as indefinite in the Office Action. As originally filed, claims 46-50 of the pending application correspond to claims 54-58 of the parent application, Serial No. 09/242,525, filed February 17, 1999. During prosecution of the parent application, an election of species was required prior to claims 54-58 being canceled by the Applicants. Pending claims 46-50 have been amended to reflect the election of species that was made during prosecution of the parent application.

Applicants contend that the aforementioned amendments have overcome the threshold requirements of clarity and precision and are therefore in condition for review by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 46-50 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 46-50 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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